

# READING COMPREHENSION ACTIVITY



## TESTIMONIALS

Charlie Provost and her mother



### CHARLIE'S STORY

Let me introduce myself: my name is Charlie and I'm now seven years old. I've been sick since the age of five. I've been diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia, but things are going relatively well. I undergo treatments at the Sainte-Justine UHC, and between injections, I have fun in the Leucan playroom.

Since I became ill, my parents have not been standing alone... Leucan provides them with moral and financial support, in addition to giving money for research so that my hospital friends and I can be cured.

## ABOUT LEUCAN'S SERVICES

### CHARLIE, ABOUT THE HOSTING IN THE PLAYROOM

The games are super cool! And Caroline and Nathalie teach me how to play the games I don't know. Sometimes, they do face painting, and it's super pretty. It makes me ticklish instead of hurting me.

### SOCIO-RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Charlie's mother: It's difficult because I have to forbid many things to Charlie: no public swimming pool, no spray park, no water slides, and watch out for sun exposure... That's why we go to the Leucan Summer Camp because at the Camp, for one full week, nothing is forbidden. The four of us always look forward to the Camp. During the activities, surrounded by other parents, we feel understood. We even built a network of friends. We laugh, we cry, we trade stories, we understand. We established strong bonds - it's indescribable.

### FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO FAMILIES

Charlie's mother: We receive a monthly allocation from Leucan. It covers the cost of gas to get to the hospital and the parking fees. During the five or six weeks of Charlie's hospital stay, my husband and I had to take turns watching over our other little 4-year-old girl. Neither one of us could work at all over that period... Leucan also donated \$500 in gift cards to the grocery store and the drugstore, which helped us tremendously.

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## SCHOOL AWARENESS PROGRAM

Charlie's mother: Lorraine from Leucan came into the classroom to raise awareness about cancer. There was not one peep from children: they were all so attentive. Following that session, Charlie received far less questions from friends about her hair loss. On the contrary, they took her under their wings, wanting to take care of her.

Charlie: Lorraine came into the classroom to tell us a story! It was the story of a little chick that had leukemia, so they had to cut and shave its feathers, but then the chick recovered and the feathers grew back. When I went back to school after that, I said, "I have beautiful feathers, too, just like the little chick!"

## MASSAGE THERAPY

Charlie's mother: Because of her treatments, Charlie's legs are very sore, so she gets massages provided by Leucan. She discovered her love of massages at the hospital. Leucan gave us tips on how to manage pain at home. Sometimes I give Charlie a massage before she goes to sleep and we even initiated her sister, Ève. It's really soothing. Now, Charlie is happy to get punctures because she knows it will be followed by a massage!

Charlie: The thing I love the most about Leucan are the massages! I flip out when I get one: it feels so good!



## QUESTIONS TO ASK AFTER READING THE TESTIMONIAL

1. Since Charlie became ill, who has been supporting her family? **Leucan**
2. Where can Charlie take part in tons of activities without any restriction from her mom, unlike the public pools and water slides? **At the Leucan summer camp**
3. What did Leucan give to Charlie's family every month that helped them tremendously? **Money**
4. When Lorraine came to Charlie's classroom, she told a story about an animal. What animal? **A little chick**
5. In what part of her body does Charlie have pain because of treatments? **Her legs**

## ESSAY QUESTIONS

- Why do you think Charlie's mom has to prohibit her from doing several things?
- If you or a member of your family had cancer, would you wish for Leucan's help? Give at least three reasons, based on the text.